

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8379
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY RABAT
/MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1503

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 5435

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORC, PEPR, AG, ID
SUBJECT: VISIT OF ALGERIAN ENVOY TO JAKARTA

1. SUMMARY. A SPECIAL ENVOY FROM ALGERIA HAS UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTEMPTED TO OBTAIN GOI SUPPORT FOR GOA POSITION ON WESTERN SAHARA AND AGREEMENT TO RAISE BILATERAL REPRESENTATION. ACTING FONMIN PANGGABEAN TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT SUHARTO HAD REFUSED TO RECEIVE THE ENVOY, WHO WISHED TO DELIVER A PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM BOUMEDIENE ON THE WESTERN SAHARA. PANGGABEAN INDICATED ALGERIA'S POSITION ON EAST TIMOR RULED OUT GOI SUPPORT FOR ALGERIAN CASUSES. END SUMMARY.

2. A SPECIAL ENVOY OF ALGERIAN PRESIDENT HOUSARI BOUMEDIENE, MOHAMMED KELLOU, ARRIVED JAKARTA APRIL 18 TO SOLICIT GOI SUPPORT FOR ALGERIA'S POSITION ON WESTERN SAHARA PRIOR TO KABUL MEETING OF THE NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BUREAU. IN APRIL 26 CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR, COORDINATING MINISTER FOR DEFENSE AND POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND ACTING FONMIN PANGGABEAN VOLUNTEERED THAT KELLOU HAD MADE DETERMINED
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EFFORT TO DELIVER PERSONALLY A LETTER FROM BOUMEDIENE TO SUHARTO ON THE WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM. PRESIDENT SUHARTO REFUSED TO RECEIVE KELLOU AND TURNED DOWN REQUEST BY VICE PRESIDENT ADAM MALIK (CONVEYED THROUGH PANGGABEAN) TO RECONSIDER THIS DECISION. THE LETTER WILL THEREFORE BY DELIVERED TO PANGGABEAN LATER ON APRIL 26. WHEN KELLOU DISCUSSED MATTER WITH ACTING FONMIN, PANGGABEAN SAID

HE HAD NOTED THAT GOI BELIEVED SUCH PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SETTLED BY ACTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION, SUCH AS HAD OCCURRED IN EAST TIMOR. PANGGABEAN SAID SMILINGLY THAT HE HAD THEN EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT ALGERIA HAD CO-SPONSORED "FRETILIN RESOLUTION" ON TIMOR IN UNGA.

3. FOLLOWING HIS TALK WITH VICE PRESIDENT MALIK, KELLOU INFORMED NEWSMEN THAT ALGERIA REGARDED WESTERN SAHARA AS "A PROBLEM OF DECOLONIZATION WHICH SHOULD BE SETTLED BY APPLYING THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION" AND CONFIRMED THAT BOUMEDIENE'S PERSONAL LETTER TO SUHARTO DISCUSSED THIS ISSUE. ONE NEWSPAPER REPORTED THAT MINISTER PANGGABEAN SAID THAT ALGERIA APPEARED READY TO ALTER ITS POSITION ON EAST TIMOR IN EXCHANGE FOR INDONESIAN SUPPORT ON THE WESTERN SAHARA. OTHER NEWS ACCOUNTS, HOWEVER, HAD PANGGABEAN BRIEFING KELLOU ON EAST TIMOR INTEGRATION AND KELLOU RESPONDING BY PROMISING TO "ACQUAINT HIS GOVERNMENT" WITH INDONESIA'S POSITION.

4. ANOTHER FONDEPT SOURCE TOLD EMBOFF THAT ALGERIAN ENVOY ALSO RAISED POSSIBILITY OF IMPROVING BILATERAL RELATIONS BY RAISING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION TO THE AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL (REPRESENTATION IS CURRENTLY AT CHARGE LEVEL). FONDEPT SOURCE SAID GOI PROMISED TO "CONSIDER" THIS REQUEST, BUT DISCOUNTED ANY CHANGES IN GOI'S CURRENT POSTURE VIS-A-VIS ALGERIA.
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